

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a conditional access module having a slot sized to receive a card having a first form factor; and

an adapter being different than the card having a first form factor and configured for insertion into the slot and for receipt of a card having a second form factor different than the first form factor, the adapter to use out of band (OOB) signals to send a serial transport stream to the card having the second form factor.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the card having the first form factor is a NRSS-B module and the card having the second form factor is a NRSS-A module.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the NRSS-B module is a PCMCIA card and the NRSS-A module is a smart card.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the conditional access module comprises:

a first converter to convert a scrambled data stream in a parallel format into a serial signal for output to the adapter, and

a second converter to receive a descrambled serial data stream from the adapter and to convert the descrambled serial data stream into a descrambled data stream in a parallel format.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a first switch coupled to the first converter and a second switch coupled to the second converter.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first switch of the conditional access module receives as input the scrambled data stream in the parallel format and the second switch of the conditional access module outputs the descrambled data stream in the parallel format.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the adapter is configured to read data from ISO contacts of the smart card.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first switch of the conditional access module is configured to provide data and clock signals when the PCMCIA card is inserted into the slot in lieu of the adapter.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a third switch coupled to the first converter to receive the serial signal, an output of the third switch is coupled to an out-of-band (OOB) pin of the adapter.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the third switch of the conditional access module is coupled to receive as input (i) at least one data bit from the first switch and (ii) the serial signal from the first converter.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 is a set-top box.

25-32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
a conditional access module; and
means for enabling the conditional access module to communicate with either a first card having a first form factor or a second card having a second form factor differing from the first form factor.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the means for enabling including a connector of the conditional access module and an adapter configured for coupling to the connector when the conditional access module is configured to the second card.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the first card is a PCMCIA card and the second card is a smart card.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the adapter is configured to read data from ISO contacts of the smart card.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the conditional access module comprises:

a first converter to convert a scrambled data stream in a parallel format into a serial signal for output to the adapter for transmission to the second card, and

a second converter to receive a descrambled serial data stream from the adapter and to convert the descrambled serial data stream into a descrambled data stream in a parallel format.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a first switch coupled to the first converter and a second switch coupled to the second converter, the first switch of the conditional access module receives as input the scrambled data stream in the parallel format and the second switch of the conditional access module outputs the descrambled data stream in the parallel format.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the first switch of the conditional access module is configured to provide data and clock signals when the PCMCIA card is inserted into a slot of the conditional access module that is adapted for receipt of either the PCMCIA card to be connected to the connector or the adapter.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a third switch coupled to the first converter to receive the serial signal, an output of the third switch is coupled to an out-of-band (OOB) pin of the adapter.

41. (currently amended) A set-top box comprising:

a conditional access module including a slot sized to receive a first card having a first form factor or an adapter including a receipt of a second card having a second form factor different than the first form factor, the conditional access including a switch to (i) route a data stream in a parallel format to the first card when the first card is inserted into the slot and is in

communication with the conditional access module, and (ii) to route the data stream in the parallel format to a converter for conversion of the data stream in the parallel format into a data stream having a serial format when the adapter is inserted into the slot and is in communication with the conditional access module; and

a card reader in electrical contact with the second card when the second card is inserted into the adapter.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the conditional access module further comprises:

a switch to route a data stream in a parallel format to the card having the first form factor when the card having the first form factor is inserted into the slot and is in communication with the conditional access module, the switch to further route the data stream in the parallel format to a converter for conversion of the data stream in the parallel format into a data stream in a serial format when the adapter is inserted into the slot and is in communication with the conditional access module.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the conditional access module further comprises:

a switch to route a data stream in a parallel format to the first card when the first card is in communication with the conditional access module, and to route the data stream in the parallel format to a converter for conversion of the data stream in the parallel format into a data stream in a serial format when the adapter is coupled to the connector.